

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : David Clyde Chiles et al.
Serial No. : 09/810,511
Filed : March 19, 2001
Title : HOME-NETWORKING

Art Unit : 2143
Examiner : Jerry B. Dennison
Conf. No. : 6194

MAIL STOP AF

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REPLY TO ACTION OF JULY 17, 2006

Claims 1-45 are pending in this application, with claims 1, 21, and 34 being independent.

Rejections under the Doctrine of Obviousness-Type Double Patenting

Claims 1-9, 12-14, 21-33, and 34-45 were provisionally rejected under the doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-9, 10-12, 43-53, 55, 56, and 61-72 of co-pending Application No. 09/810,421. Applicants request that this provisional rejection be held in abeyance until applicants receive an indication that the claims are otherwise allowable.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 1, 21, and 34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Number 6,693,878 ("Daruwalla"). Alternatively, claims 1, 21, and 34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Network Telesystems, NTS Tunnel Builder User's Guide ("NTS") in view of Newswire Association Inc., "Ramp Networks Announces Comprehensive Virtual Network Solution; Targets Corporate Branch Offices" ("Ramp"). Alternatively, claims 1, 21, and 34 along with their dependent claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Number 6,671,739 ("Reed") in view of U.S. Patent Number 6,167,120 ("Kikinis") and in further view of Daruwalla.

As a preliminary matter, Applicants note that the Final Office Action does not address the substance of the arguments that Applicants previously asserted to overcome the above rejections in Applicants' response to the Non-Final Office Action. Instead, the Final Office Action

OK to enter